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AGENDA

EQUIPMENT BOARD

Meeting No. 2-65

DATE : 10 March 1965
TIME : 1400
PLACE : OC Conference Room
2D03 Hqs. Building

ILLEGIB

OLD BUSINESS

None

DOC	<u>5</u>	REV DATE	<u>9-12-81</u>	BY	<u>006199</u>
ORIG COMP	<u>-</u>	OPI	<u>33</u>	TYPE	<u>04</u>
ORIG CLASS	<u>5</u>	PAGES	<u>6</u>	REV CLASS	<u>C</u>
JUST	<u>22</u>	NEXT REV	<u>2010</u>	AUTH:	HR 70-2

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 1: Procurement of RS-100 Radio Sets

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[REDACTED] is in the current fiscal year's budget for the procurement of a set to replace the RS-1. An Equipment Board recommendation on whether to procure the RS-100 for this purpose is required.

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DD/S 65-1426
OC-3738

26 MAR 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : RS-100 Radio Sets

1. On 10 March 1965 the Office of Communications Equipment Board met to discuss procurement of RS-100 radio sets. Attached are the Minutes of that meeting containing the Board's recommendations to me which I have approved.

2. Because of the magnitude of the funds involved and the significance of the items which are being reprogrammed, I believe I should have your concurrence. A provision for your signature has been added on the last page of the Attachment.

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Director of Communications

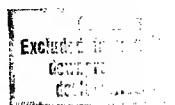
Attachment:

Minutes - OC Equipment Board
Meeting No. 2-65

Distribution:

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2 - DD/S w/att

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EQUIPMENT BOARD
MINUTES

Meeting Number 2-65 of the Equipment Board was held on 10 March 1965 in the OC Conference Room, 2D03, Headquarters Building. Those present were:



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I. OLD BUSINESS

None

II. NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 1: Procurement of RS-100 Radio Sets

1. Introduction

a. [REDACTED] is in the current fiscal year's budget for the procurement of equipment to replace the RS-1. The RS-100 is under development to provide a rugged, waterproof set for use in para-military operations. This meeting has been called to obtain a Board recommendation on whether these FY-65 funds should be committed to RS-100 procurement.

2. Discussion

a. The Chairman opened the discussion by stating that he believed the question before the Board could best be resolved by first considering the question of "Can we?" based on whether development of the RS-100 has reached the point where the Office is in a position to commit funds this fiscal year for its procurement, following which the question "Should we?" could be discussed. The Chairman then asked OC-E to provide a run-down on the present state of RS-100 development. This was done by [REDACTED]. He began by giving a resume of where the development of the RS-100 and its associated components now stand. Then, using a chart to illustrate the timing involved between now and the end of the fiscal year, [REDACTED] showed that the schedule would call for our sending out requests for proposals for bid on 21 May with responses due back by 11 June; after review, a recommendation on the desired bidder would be sent to the Office of Logistics by 18 June. This contract would cover the RS-100 receiver,

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transmitter, matrix, battery and case. The hand generator and the 300 wpm keyer would be contracted for separately. The primary problem in maintaining this schedule is the transmitter. The transmitter in the present service test models requires 28 volts and thus a converter must be used to operate it from the RS-100 12 volt battery. In view of the work done by [REDACTED] on the RT-66 12 volt transmitter, the RS-100 transmitter is not considered to be a state-of-the-art device; consequently a contract has been let to [REDACTED] to develop a new 12 volt transmitter for the RS-100 and it will be received later this month. 25X1A 25X1A

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b. [REDACTED] said the schedule which had been drawn up by OC-E was based upon the assumption that the Office would feel it necessary to commit the funds this fiscal year. He was confident that the schedule, although it was a tight one, could be met. Needless to say, however, additional time would be most desirable.

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c. When asked for his views, [REDACTED] replied that he doubted that the schedule could be met; he believed that realism required we anticipate problems with the transmitter just as we have had with the first model of the RT-66. Keyer and hand generator problems could also be anticipated. He concluded that while he could not prove that the schedule could not be met, he had a strong feeling that it would not.

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d. The question of where the military stood vis-a-vis the RS-100 was raised and [REDACTED] provided information on the reactions they had received from ARPA and the Combat Development Command. In general, the military appears to be only marginally interested in the RS-100. Each component seems to have its own pet project to provide it with a radio set of the general RS-100 type. Special Forces is holding out for the AN/PRC-70 which is not due until 1970, saying that they will use the AN/GRC-109 (RS-1) as an interim set until then, fearing that if they go for another set on the basis that it is also an interim set, they will never get the AN/PRC-70. Col. Taber of ARPA is to take an RS-100 to the Far East with him in the near future and the Navy is to get some for testing by their SEAL teams. Nevertheless, it is difficult to determine military interest at this time because they have not yet had RS-100's to test in the field.

e. Considerable further discussion followed on the problems involved in making changes in equipment after a production contract has been let, the problems associated with obtaining TRB approval in the short time available, and the advantages of having additional time for R&D.

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f. The matter of "Should we?" was next discussed. OC-E presented a chart showing the relative size, weight and costs of RS-1, RS-48, RS-49 and RS-100 systems. With regard to RS-100 production costs, no really good estimates are available; OC-E has received rough estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per set and selected \$4,700 as their approximation of what the set would cost, including 300 wpm keying equipment. However, the point was emphasized that unit costs might be substantially less, as had been the case with RS-49 estimates after bids were received.

g. There was considerable discussion on the role the RS-100 would play in CIA clandestine operations. It was generally agreed that the RS-100 was not being considered as a catch-all replacement for the RS-1, because we now have, or have coming, equipments which will provide a family of units from which to select equipment for a specific operation, depending upon the particular requirement. This represents a change from the situation a few years back when almost all para-military requirements were met by one single set. The RS-48 and RS-49 in waterproof carrying cases were displayed as examples of equipments that could be used for many operations and the RS-69 (former AN/PRC-64), which is due soon, would add further variety to the equipment available.

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h. [REDACTED] expressed the view that the RS-100 was too big, too costly and too complex; while he believed it would be a desirable set for certain operations, he believed that the smaller, cheaper equipments would be used much more widely.

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i. [REDACTED] said that he believed CIA would continue to be involved in counter-insurgency operations and he believed it is desirable that a rugged unit of equipment such as the RS-100 be available. However, he did not expect there would be as many requirements for the RS-100 as for the smaller, less rugged sets.

j. Whether all the 1.7 million dollars available during fiscal years 1965-66 should be spent for RS-100 sets was next discussed with the general feeling being that this money should be used to increase our stocks of other sets as well as procuring the RS-100.

3. Conclusion

The Board concluded that it would be desirable to defer procurement of the RS-100 until some time after 30 June 1965. Such action should result in the following advantages:

a. We will have more time to determine the best configuration and technical capabilities to be included in the unit we finally order.

b. We will have time to field test the final unit before procurement.

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c. The additional time provided may allow for military participation in procurement.

d. More accurate cost information will be available.

e. As a result of the foregoing, we should be able to make a better determination as to what portion of the [REDACTED] could be spent for RS-100's and what portion for other units that would have counter-insurgency application.

f. We will be in a better position to brief members of the DD/P Technical Requirements Board on the RS-100 and its planned usage for para-military type operations.

4. Recommendations

a. Procurement of RS-100 be deferred until FY-1966 at which time we should achieve significant cost advantages by the placement of a single contract using the FY-65 and FY-66 funds programmed for this purpose.

b. Use a portion of the FY-65 funds that will be available as a result of the above deferment to bring to a "ready" status a second eight circuit, pre-assembled, air transportable, communications base. Here again we should achieve cost advantages by accomplishing the FY 65/66 program for transportable equipment in FY-65.

c. We take appropriate action to procure in FY-65 additional equipment which had previously been planned for FY-66 procurement, thereby reserving FY-66 funds for the full RS-1 replacement program.

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[REDACTED]
Secretary

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[REDACTED]
Approval

Recommendations in paragraph 4 are approved.

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